

MARK PRYOR, United States Senator [D-AR]; The Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, United States Senator [R-VA]; The Honorable BILLY TAUZIN, United States Representative [R-LA-3rd District].

Panel II: Edward C. Prado to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Panel III: Richard D. Bennett to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland; Dee D. Drell to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; J. Leon Holmes to be United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas; Susan G. Braden to be Judge for the Court of Federal Claims; Charles F. Lettow to be Judge for the Court of Federal Claims.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on compensation for disabled military retirees, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., in closed session to receive testimony on intelligence support to warfighters, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Kirbabas, Tyler Garrett, and Shawn White of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the consideration of H.R. 1307.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VETERANS' MEMORIAL PRESERVATION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 44, S. 330.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 330) to further the protection and recognition of veterans' memorials, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this measure and commend Senator CAMPBELL for his leadership on this matter. This is a measure the Senate passed last year as S. 1644. The Senate's action in May, 2002, unfortunately met with resistance in the House of Representatives and our bill was not enacted into law last year as it should have been.

Senator CAMPBELL correctly proceeded to reintroduce the bill as S. 330, earlier this year. The bill provides for two things: highway signs to guide visitors to veterans cemeteries and a criminal provision for the willful destruction of memorials and cemeteries for our Armed Forces veterans.

I have urged all Senators, Republicans and Democrats, to support this modest legislative effort to help honor our Armed Forces veterans. In addition, of course, I will continue to support efforts to improve medical services, veterans hospitals, and other benefits for the women and men who risk and have risked their lives and livelihoods to protect all of us.

I asked the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to include this matter on the agenda for Judiciary Committee action last week. I thank him for accommodating our request and am happy that this bill was reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee to the full Senate. I am confident that the Senate will again pass it. I trust that this year the House of Representatives will act favorably on this good legislation to honor our veterans.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 330) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 330

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Memorial Preservation and Recognition Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR DESTRUCTION OF VETERANS' MEMORIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1369. Destruction of veterans' memorials

"(a) Whoever, in a circumstance described in subsection (b), willfully injures or destroys, or attempts to injure or destroy, any structure, plaque, statue, or other monument on public property commemorating the service of any person or persons in the armed forces of the United States shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

"(b) A circumstance described in this subsection is that—

"(1) in committing the offense described in subsection (a), the defendant travels or causes another to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or uses the mail or an in-

strumentality of interstate or foreign commerce; or

"(2) the structure, plaque, statue, or other monument described in subsection (a) is located on property owned by, or under the jurisdiction of, the Federal Government."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"1369. Destruction of veterans' memorials."

SEC. 3. HIGHWAY SIGNS RELATING TO VETERANS CEMETERIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the terms of any agreement entered into by the Secretary of Transportation and a State under section 109(d) or 402(a) of title 23, United States Code, a veterans cemetery shall be treated as a site for which a supplemental guide sign may be placed on any Federal-aid highway.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall apply to an agreement entered into before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 85, on today's Executive Calendar; I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Vernon Bernard Parker, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 6 o'clock on Monday, March 31, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 77, the nomination of Theresa Springmann, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana; further, I ask that the Senate then proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination; that after the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, April 1, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No.